

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed July 11, 2002, please amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-24. (Cancelled):

Claim ¹~~25~~. (Currently amended): A fastening assembly comprising:

A first fastening member having a length, a first end, a second end, a central axis, ~~and a threaded axial recess at the first end,~~ and an axially extending threaded region at the second end; and,

A second fastening member having a length, a first end, a second end, a central axis, a threaded axial recess at the first end, and an axially extending threaded region at the second end, the axially extending threaded region being engaged within the threaded axial recess of the first fastening member.

²
a Claim ²~~26~~. (New): The fastening assembly of Claim ¹~~25~~ wherein said first fastening member comprises a hollow body.

³
Claim ³~~27~~. (New): The fastening assembly of Claim ¹~~25~~ wherein said second fastening member comprises a hollow body.

⁴
Claim ⁴~~28~~. (New): The fastening assembly of Claim ¹~~25~~ further comprising:

Means for capping the second fastening member, said capping means being adapted to be engaged with said threaded axial recess at said first end of said second fastening member.

⁵
Claim ⁵~~29~~. (New): The fastening assembly of Claim ²~~26~~ further comprising:

Means for capping the first fastening member, said capping means being adapted to engage said axially extending threaded region at said second end of said first fastening member.